

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2021

GRANITE VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

HAMPDEN, ss.

TOWN OF MONSON

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

To any of the Constables of the Town of Monson in said county:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn all the inhabitants of the Town of Monson qualified to vote in Elections and Town affairs to meet at Granite Valley Middle School on Thompson Street on Monday, November 1, 2021, A.D. at 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following articles:

Article 1:

Submitted by: Highway Surveyor

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate a sum of money to fund storm water related costs as part of our MS4 plan or take any action relative thereto.

Explanation: The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program requires operators of regulated transportation MS4s to reduce the discharge of pollutants from their MS4 to the maximum extent practicable.

Required Vote: MAJORITY

***Recommendation:** Finance Committee Recommends, and I move the Town Vote (F.C.R.I.M.T.V.) to raise and appropriate \$ 26,600 from available funds to the Highway Storm Water Regulations Expense Account*

Article 2:

Submitted by: Highway Surveyor

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate a sum of money for Tree Removal Services account to cover the costs of removing dead trees or take any action relative thereto.

Explanation: The additional funds will cover the cost of gypsy moth damaged tree removal

Required Vote: MAJORITY

***Recommendation:** (F.C.R.I.M.T.V.) to raise and appropriate \$ 10,000 from available funds to the Tree Warden outside services expense account.*

Article 3:

Submitted by: Finance Director

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate a sum of money to fund disability plan costs outlined in employee contracts or take any action relative thereto.

Explanation: This will fund four accounts, including the Town Administrator, Fire Chief, Police Chief and Police Lieutenant contracts.

Required Vote: MAJORITY

Recommendation: F.C.R.I.M.T.V. to raise and appropriate \$14,290 from available funds to the disability salary account.

Article 4:

Submitted by: Finance Director

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate a sum of money, to fund the capital purchase of a lawn mower for the school department or take any action relative thereto.

Explanation: This transfer funds the continuation of the Town of Monson's Capital Plan.

Required Vote: MAJORITY

Recommendation: F.C.R.I.M.T.V. to transfer and appropriate \$13,500 from free cash to fund a capital purchase of a lawn mower.

Article 5:

Submitted by: Fire Chief

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate a sum of money, for the EMT Full-Time Account for the purpose of staff salaries or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This transfer will fund one full time firefighter/EMT for the remainder of FY 22 starting January 1, 2022.

Required Vote: MAJORITY

Recommendation: F.C.R.I.M.T.V. to raise and appropriate \$35,000 from available funds to the full-time Firefighter/EMT salary account.

Article 6:

Submitted by: Fire Chief

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate a sum of money, to extend the contract between the Town and Tec Ton Architecture to continue assessments on the Monson Fire Department take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: The Monson Fire Department is requesting funds to extend the contract between the town and Tec Ton Architecture to continue assessments of the Monson Fire Department Building and additional design options.

Required Vote: **MAJORITY**

Recommendation: *F.C.R.I.M.T.V. to transfer and appropriate \$32,000 from Free Cash to the Fire Station Assessment Capital line.*

Article 7:

Submitted by: Finance Director

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate a sum of money, for the Building Department Consultant Salary line item for the purpose of consultant services or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: The Building department needs consultant services, and this will cover the cost of the required training that is needed to support the office.

Required Vote: **MAJORITY**

Recommendation: *F.C.R.I.M.T.V. to raise and appropriate \$5,000 from available funds to the building department consulting services line.*

Article 8:

Submitted by: Finance Director

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate a sum of money, to the Bills of Prior Years Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: If a bill arrives after the start of the new fiscal year, for work done in the previous year, the Town cannot pay said bill without Town Meeting authorization. The prior year bills are for the following departments:

- Technology Department: \$1813
- Maintenance Building Account: \$435
- Highway Department: \$859

Required Vote: **NINE-TENTHS**

Recommendation: *F.C.R.I.M.T.V. to raise and appropriate \$3,107.00 from available funds to the prior year bills account.*

Article 9:

Submitted by: Finance Director

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the unused portion of the \$340,000 borrowing authorization previously approved by the Town that was to be used to pay for the following items:

- (1) Fire Truck purchase approved at the 11/4/2019 Special Town meeting (Article 11),
- (2) Retention Pond at the 10/29/2018 Special Town Meeting (Article 22)

(3) Silver Street Bridge at the 5/8/2017 Annual Town meeting (Article 27), and
(4) Hillside Demolition project approved at the 10/29/2018 Special Town Meeting (Article 23).
Further to authorize the Select Board to execute any and all documents necessary on behalf of the Town to rescind said borrowing authorization or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: There are 4 projects that were rolled into one bond. The following projects are:

1. Fire Truck Purchase: \$65,000 to rescind
2. Retention Pond: \$15,000 to rescind
3. Silver Street Bridge: \$20,000 to rescind
4. Hillside Demo Project: \$240,000 to rescind

We received premiums from the bond and are required by the DOR to use those funds towards the cost of the projects, so the amount originally authorized to borrow was reduced.

Required Vote: *MAJORITY*

Recommendation: F.C.R.I.M.T.V to rescind the unused \$340,000 borrowing authorization as written.

Article 10:

Submitted by: Select Board

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to fund an expense account under the Select Board budget related to Host Agreement Impact costs, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This transfer of funds will allow the town to expend money related to impact costs related to our host agreement terms.

Required Vote: *MAJORITY*

Recommendation: F.C.R.I.M.T.V. to raise and appropriate \$15,000 from available funds to the Select Board Expense Account.

Article 11:

Submitted by: Finance Director

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds a sum of money to the Liability Insurance Account or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: Due to increased claims and increase in estimated costs, additional monies are needed to fund the Town's Liability insurance account.

Required Vote: *MAJORITY*

Recommendation: *F.C.R.I.M.T.V. to raise and appropriate \$30,000 from available funds to the Liability Insurance Account line.*

Article 12:

Submitted by: Director of Community Development

To see if the town will vote to amend the Monson Zoning Bylaws 3.1-Schedule of Use Regulations Table 1 to include the following:

Municipal Dog Pound allowed in the Industrial (I) District permitted by SP-ZBA approval

Or take any action relative thereto:

Explanation: The Town of Monson owns a building on 106 Bethany Road, Assessor's Map 112, Lot 15, that housed the former Monson Dog Pound. It has not been used for numerous years and now is no longer allowed under Monson's Zoning Bylaw. The Town is currently working with neighboring communities on establishing a Regional Animal Control Facility and the Bethany Road site and building has been established as the top contender for this facility. The building would be rehabilitated to meet modern code requirements.

Required Vote: *TWO-THIRDS*

Recommendation: *F.C.R.I.M.T.V. approve article 12 as written.*

Article 13:

Submitted by: Finance Director

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate a sum of money, to create and fund a Conservation Agent Position, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This transfer of funds will allow the town to create and fund a newly needed position. The position is a Conservation Agent. This position is needed to provide support to the Conservation Commission. This position will help the Conservation Commission in carrying out its mandate and its mission to protect the community's natural resources including its bio-diversity, unique natural areas, wetlands and other water resources.

Required Vote: *MAJORITY*

Recommendation: *F.C.R.I.M.T.V. to raise and appropriate \$15,178 from available funds to the Conservation Agent Salary line.*

Article 14:

Submitted by: Community Preservation

To see if the town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$40,350 for the completion of the restoration of the Hillside Cemetery Arch. Significant cracks have been found on the tower portion of this iconic structure which must be restored. The funds will be transferred from the FY '22 Historic Preservation fund under the Community Preservation Program for the Preservation of Historic sites pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B or any other enabling authority. Said funds to be expended under the administration of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any

other action relative thereto.

Explanation: The completion of the restoration of the Hillside Cemetery Arch. Significant cracks have been found on the tower portion of this iconic structure which must be restored.

Required Vote: MAJORITY

Recommendation: F.C.R.I.M.T.V. to transfer and appropriate \$40,350 from the Historic Preservation fund.

Article 15:

Submitted by: Community Preservation

To see if the town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$435 for preservation of Vital Town Records. In the past the paper has needed to be cleaned and treated for preservation because the town lacked proper storage facilities for these documents. Preservation can now take place within the town offices and this funding will provide materials for this process. The funds will be transferred from the FY'22 Historic Preservation fund for the Preservation of Historic documents pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B or any other enabling authority. Said funds to be expended under the administration of the Community Preservation Committee or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: *Preservation of Vital Town Records. In the past the paper has needed to be cleaned and treated for preservation because the town lacked proper storage facilities for these documents. Preservation can now take place within the town offices and this funding will provide materials for this process.*

Required Vote: MAJORITY

Recommendation: F.C.R.I.M.T.V. to transfer and appropriate \$435 from the Historic Preservation fund.

Article 16:

Submitted by: Community Preservation

To see if the town will vote to appropriate the sum of up to \$36,620 to create a larger skate park by adding new equipment to the site. This skate park is used by a wide variety of age groups in the community and is overseen by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The funds shall be transferred from the FY '22 Budgeted Reserve Account under the Community Preservation Program for the Creation of Recreational activities pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B or any other enabling authority. Said funds to be expended under the administration of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: To create a larger skate park by adding new equipment to the site. This skate park is used by a wide variety of age groups in the community and is overseen by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Required Vote: MAJORITY

Recommendation: F.C.R.I.M.T.V. to transfer and appropriate \$36,620 from the Budgeted Reserve Account.

Article 17:

Submitted by: Community Preservation

To see if the town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,500 to finish planting the Chestnut Restoration project at Upper Rogers Field located at Flynt Park. This project is seen as both historical restoration and open space preservation as it restores the chestnut trees once found in this area. The funds shall be transferred from the FY '22 Budgeted Reserve Account under the Community Preservation Program for the preservation of historic and scenic resources pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B or any other enabling authority. Said funds to be expended under the administration of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: Finish planting the Chestnut Restoration project at Upper Rogers Field located at Flynt Park. This project is seen as both historical restoration and open space preservation as it restores the chestnut trees once found in this area.

Required Vote: MAJORITY

Recommendation: F.C.R.I.M.T.V. to transfer and appropriate \$20,500 from the Budgeted Reserve Account.

Article 18:

Submitted by: Water and Sewer Commission

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate from the Sewer Enterprise Free Cash a sum of money to the Sewer Department Maintenance of Joint Treatment Prior Year Bill Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: The sum of \$50,000.00 being requested to cover FY2021 prior year bill.

Required Vote: NINE-TENTHS

Recommendation: F.C.R.I.M.T.V. to transfer and appropriate \$50,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Free Cash to the Sewer Maintenance of Joint Treatment Prior Year Bill Account.

Article 19:

Submitted by: Water and Sewer Commission

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate a sum of money from the Water Enterprise Free Cash to the Water Operating Account or take any action relative thereto.

Explanation: The sum of \$20,127.53 is being requested to replenish September 7, 2021 Route 32 Water Main Break expenses paid from FY2022 Operating Budget.

Required Vote: MAJORITY

Recommendation: : F.C.R.I.M.T.V. to transfer and appropriate \$20,128 from the Water Enterprise Free Cash to the Water Operating Account.

Article 20:

Submitted by: Water and Sewer Commission

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate a sum of money from the Water Enterprise Free Cash to the Water Pump Station Maintenance line item, or take any action relative thereto.

Explanation: The sum of \$2,160.00 is being requested to go towards costs and expenses of bi-weekly trimming and mowing of water lawn areas at the Bunyan, Palmer, Ely and Old Wales Road locations

Required Vote: MAJORITY

Recommendation: F.C.R.I.M.T.V. to transfer and appropriate \$2,160 from the Water Enterprise Free Cash to the Water Pump Station Maintenance Line Item.

Article 21:

Submitted by: Select Board

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate the sum of \$12,150.00 to hire VHB to provide survey, design, and limited construction administration services for the repair of the landfill cap at the Margaret Street Landfill or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This article will allow the Town to hire an engineering firm to develop an engineered plan to correct the uneven settling at the Margaret Street Landfill. MA DEP has requested that the Town conduct corrective measures to ensure the integrity of the landfill cap by preventing stormwater from ponding and penetrating the existing cap.

Required Vote: MAJORITY

Recommendation: F.C.R.I.M.T.V. to raise and appropriate \$12,150 from available funds to the Landfill Project expense line.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 12th day of October 2021.


Richard M. Smith, Chairman


Patricia A. Oney


Mary K. Hill

MONSON SELECTBOARD

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

HAMPDEN, ss.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the legal voters of the Town of Monson by posting an attested copy of said Warrant in at least two places in said Monson fourteen days at least before the time appointed for holding the meeting aforesaid.

A true copy, 10/18/21
ATTEST:


Constable of Monson


Town Clerk